



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Kevin J. Schulz et al.

Appln. No. : 10/083,054

Filed : February 26, 2002

For : STIFFENED SUSPENSION FOR A
STORAGE DEVICE HAVING A
LAYER OF COMPOSITE MATERIAL

Docket No.: S01.12-0829

11/19/03
3303
Group Art Unit: 2652
Examiner: Klimowicz

RESPONSE

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2003

Technology Center 2600

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS

14th DAY OF February, 2003.

Theresa M. Rady
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 23, 2002 in which claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, and 24 were rejected.

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Pal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,760,478, hereinafter Pal) in view of Oberg (U.S. Patent No. 4,991,045).

Pal discloses a suspension assembly that includes a 3 mils thick stainless steel load beam 24. To reduce vibrations on the suspension assembly, Pal applies a 5 mils thick viscoelastic material to steel load beam 24. This material has adhesive on both sides of it and thus is adhesively applied to load beam 24.

A 2 mils thick steel constraining member 36 is then applied to the viscoelastic material. Note that Pal does not adhesively apply the constraining member 36 to load beam 24 but instead adhesively applies constraining member 36 to the viscoelastic dampening material, which is actually thicker than the load beam.